(b) if not, the quantum of this amount at the end of September, 2002; and

(c) the average amount recovered by Government through settling these disputes during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The quantum of amount at the end of September, 2002 in respect of Direct Taxes was Rs. 41,147 crore and Central Excise Duty was Rs. 11,320 crore. As far as Customs Duty is concerned, the figure will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The information on recovery is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Absence of guidelines in corporate Audit Committees

658. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Corporate Audit Committees have to face a number of problems with the Brand of Companies in the absence of clear cut guidelines defining the role of Audit Committees;

(b) if so, the main reasons for conflict between the Corporate Audit Committees and company brand;

(c) whether Government have framed any rules and guidelines for the CACs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) The role of Audit Committees is clearly defined under Companies Act, 1956. Government have not come across any case of conflicts or problems faced by corporate Audit Committees with "Brand of Companies". No rules or guidelines for Corporate Audit Committees have been framed by the Government.